



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Juvenile Justice Statewide Improvement Planning Grant Task Force**

**Thursday May 31, 2018 from 1-3 pm**

**Main Building, Room 198, DHHS Herman Holloway Campus**

**1901 N. Dupont Hwy, New Castle, DE 19720**

**Attendees: Renee Ciconte & Commissioner Theresa Sedivec (co-chairs), Romie Griesmer (CJC staff), Capt. Pete Sawyer (DSP), Gerald Tatum (NCCPD), Liz Fillingame (OCA), Regan Ward-Allen (OCA), Chris Kervick (CJC), Abby Layton (DOJ), Anthony Longo (DOJ), Kitty Lunger (ODS), Meghan Crist (ODS), Magistrate Cheryl McCabe-Strohman (JP Court), Brie Gannon (SAC); by Phone: Judge Ryan (Courts), Lynn Gedney (DELGIS), Addie Asay (Family Court), Perry Phelps (DOC), Charles Emory (WPD), Rebecca Richmond (PBM), Monica Celli (CJC), Kimberly Chandler (DSHS), Erin Goldner (Hope Street), Brian Moore (Dept. of Ed.), Sarah Wooten (Leg Hall), Gwendolyn Scott-Jones (DSU), Josh Weber (CSG), Michael Umpierre (CSG Partner), Tom Grisso (CSG Partner).**

Welcome and introduction by co-chairs Renee Ciconte & Theresa Sedivec. Attendees introduced themselves as well. A brief description of the grant goals was given: Improving Diversion, Expanding Civil Citation, Reducing DMC, and Improving Data Collection. Today we are hearing CSG's assessment and their recommendations for improvement. Over the summer, our committee will break into our two working groups: pre-arrest diversion and post-arrest diversion.

Josh Weber from our TA provider, the Council on State Governments (CSG), and partners gave a presentation of the assessment for this grant including their recommendations for improvement. Josh walked the group through the assessment in ppt form which has been shared with all attendees. Josh invited questions during the presentation. Josh suggested that our probation before adjudication program appears to have a net widening program. We were left with a couple of big recommendations they would like to see us focus on:

1. Centralize all diversion programs under one agency who has oversight of all programs; Develop a service diversion matrix including all programs: what are the criteria for admission, how is the program meeting the needs of kids, what are the outcomes;
2. Adopting a validated risk & needs screening tool to tell us what treatment is appropriate, if any, for this child; should status offenders be in the system at all;
3. Have a centralized statewide data system that is consistently tracking important data points including DMC) and sharing these.

Tom Grisso described the screening tools that are available: risk, d/a, trauma, mh (MAZIE used in detention), some specifically designed for diversion. As opposed to the full PACT which can take 40 mins, these screening tools only take 5 minutes, comprised of 6 questions. Florida uses the PAT. These tools have the benefit of helping us make more equitable decisions. The Ohio tool seems especially suited to helping with DMC. PA also has a tool. With these tools there is always an override ability for the outlying cases. Some of these tools have a train the trainer model that make them more sustainable. Idea arose of probation being somewhat of a post-arrest intake office. Tom mentioned Models for Change, McArthur, being a good place to look for ideas. To alleviate concerns of defense counsel, can legislate that information gained pre-adjudication (via screening tools) will not be used in court.

Michael Umpierre mentioned a CUP website that has very helpful information for data collection (best practices RED). MD has good data collection. Connecticut used data to show diversion gaps. Michael also discussed lessons learned from Florida's Civil Citation Program. They do a great deal of training and education on civil citation and other diversion programs. Florida also has one of the most sophisticated statewide data collection systems in the country. Some states use a multidisciplinary team to review diversion decisions (Kentucky, Nebraska, Washington).

Meeting adjourned at about 3 pm. Following this meeting an executive session was held with key stakeholders.